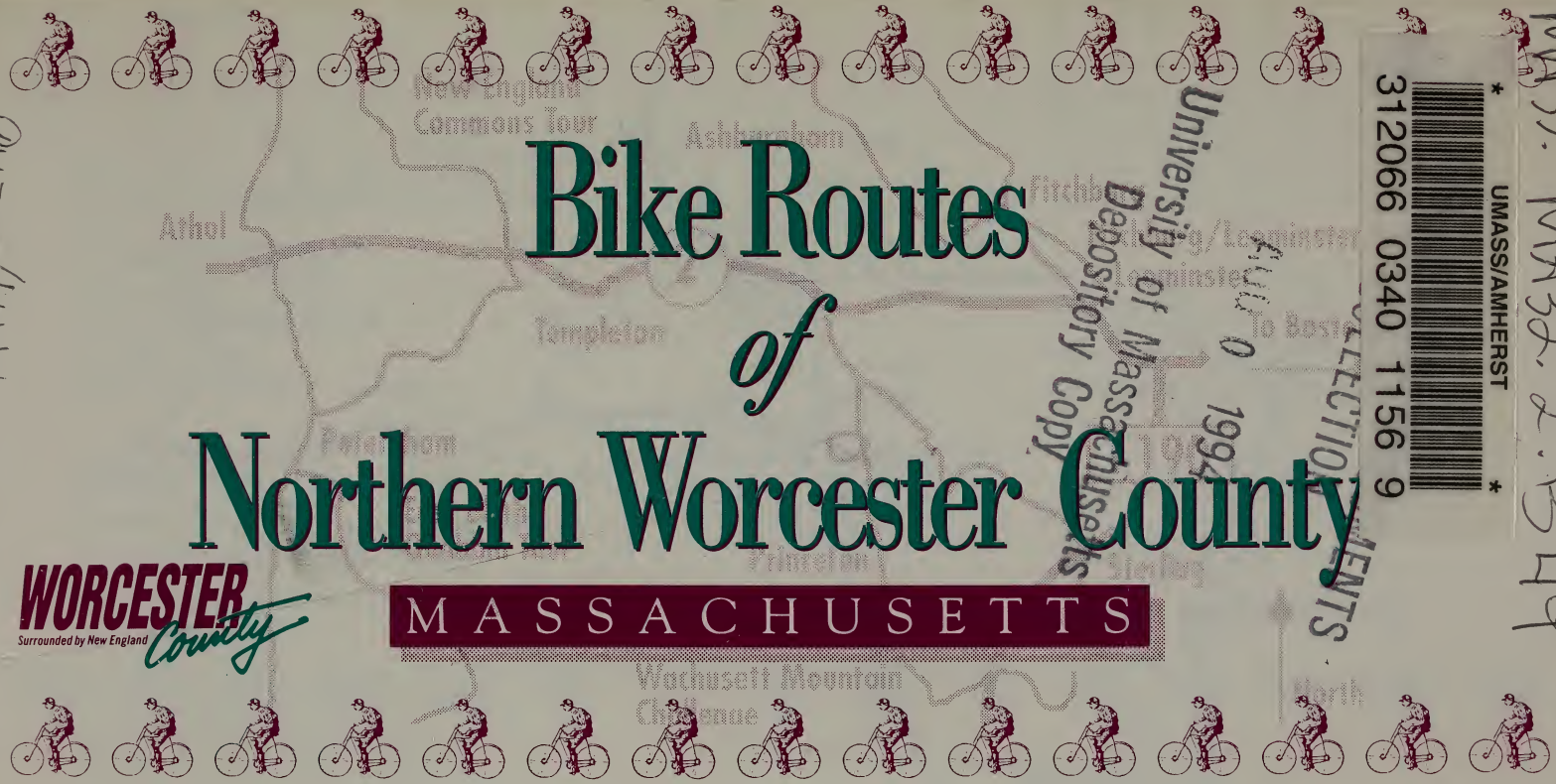

Bike Routes *of* Northern Worcester County

MASSACHUSETTS

WORCESTER County
Surrounded by New England

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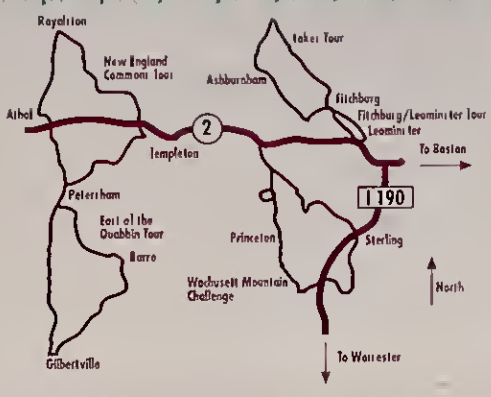
Bike Routes of Northern Worcester County

Northern Worcester County is the home of the annual Longsjo Classic Bike Race, the second oldest bike race in the country.

Enjoy the wooded landscapes and the beautiful lakes, rivers and waterfalls, while touring through historic Northern Worcester County. Wachusett Mountain is a fun challenge, and the foliage is unrivaled.



Fitchburg/ Leominster Tour, 11 miles, easy:

This route goes through parts of Fitchburg and Leominster, two of the most populated cities in northern Worcester County.

Begin at the Leominster Sheraton on Route 12, at the junction of Route 2. Right on Rt. 12 North for 1.2 mi.

Sharp right at the rotary, under the railroad bridge, on River Street (Rt. 31) for .8 mi.

Straight on Boulder Drive, keeping the boulder on your left, in downtown Fitchburg, .9 mi.

Merge straight on Main Street, .1 mi.

Straight at lights to Summer Street, 1 mi.

Right on connecting ramp to Bemis Road for .3 mi.

Left at lights on Airport Road for 2.9 mi.

Right at end of road on Hamilton Street for .8 mi.

Right on Rt. 12 back to the Leominster Sheraton, .1 mi.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Rt. 12 Leominster Sheraton for food and lodging.

Nashua River, crosses Rts. 12 and 31.

Old textile mills on River Street.

Gamache's Cyclery Laurel Street.

The Rollstone Boulder and Fitchburg's Upper Common, intersection of Rt. 31 and Boulder Drive.

Fitchburg Airport, Fahlah Road. Scenic Rides.

SPECIAL NOTES

These streets can be congested. This route is best in the early morning, before other activities, or on Sunday.

Lakes Tour, Ashburnham, Fitchburg, Westminster, 22 miles, medium:

Tour the lakes and reservoirs of the Central Massachusetts region. Be sure to leave time for an ice cream on the way.

Start at Gamache's Cyclery on Rts. 12 and 2A.

Right on Route 12 North for 8.1 mi., into the center of Ashburnham.

Right on Route 101 East for 4 mi.

Right on Ringe Turnpike (Ringe Road) for 7.6 mi.

Right on Route 31 South for 1.1 mi.

Left on Boulder Drive for .1 mi. Stay to the left of the boulder.

Right on Rollstone Street, over the bridge, .2 mi.

Left on Routes 2A and 12 for .5 mi. to return to Gamache's Cyclery.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Ashburnham Center, Rt. 12, just north of the Rt. 101 intersection, shops and historical buildings.

Winnekrag Lake, Ashburnham State Forest and Billy Ward Pond on Rt. 101.

Fitchburg Reservoirs and conservation land on Ringe Turnpike (Ringe Road).

The Rollstone Boulder and the Upper Common in Fitchburg, Rt. 31 and Boulder Drive.

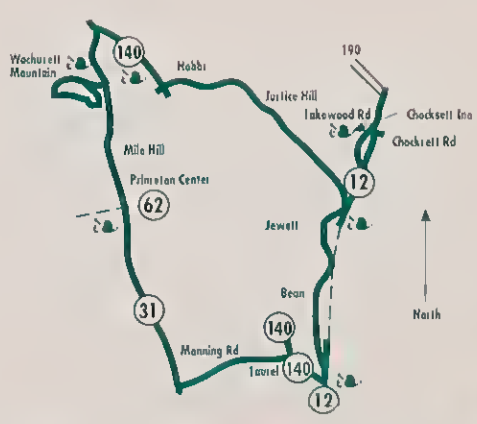
SPECIAL NOTES

All uphill to Ashburnham. Ringe Road is not a state highway, and can be a little rough, but the surroundings are worth the bumps.

Wachusett Mountain Challenge, 38/40 miles, difficult:

Ride the route of the Longsjo Classic Bike Race, up the side of Wachusett Mountain. A very challenging ride, with beautiful views.

The starting point, The Checkerett Inn, right off of I-190 in Sterling, on Laurelwood Road, offers support for bicycle tours.



Left on Laurelwood Rd, for .7 mi. from the Checkerett Inn.

Right on Route 12 South for 2.1 mi.

Right on Bean Rd, for 2.8 mi.

Right on Route 140 North for 1.1 mi.

Left on Laurel Street, turns into Manning Rd., for 3.3 mi.

Right on Route 31 North for 5.7 mi.

Straight on Mile Hill Rd., after crossing Route 62, for 2.9 mi. to visitors' center. Left on road "to Summit" for .2 mi. Backtrack .2 mi., then descend (very steep) for .8 mi.

To skip the summit climb, continue to Route 140 for 5.5 mi.

Right to entrance, .6 mi. Left on Mile Hill Rd, for 1.7 mi.

Right on Route 140 South for 2.4 mi.

Left on Hubbs Rd., to "Shady Lane Greenhouse", 1.5 mi

Bear left at the fork out to Justice Hill Rd. Up steep hill for 1 mi.

Straight at next two forks, 1.1 mi

Left on for .4 mi.

Left on Laurelwood Rd, for .7 mi.

POINTS OF INTEREST

The Checkerett Inn, on Laurelwood Rd., for lodging.

Sterling Center on Rt. 12, and nearby, Sterling Millworks, gallery and craft demonstrations.

The Wachusett Reservoir on Rts. 12 and 140.

Princeton Common, Rts. 31 and 62

Wachusett Mountain, perfect for skiing and recreation.

Redemption Rock, on Rt. 140, a historical marker.

East of the Quabbin, 33 miles, medium:

Follow the banks of the Quabbin Reservoir on Route 32A. The Quabbin is known for its woodland, wildlife and for its surrounding communities, such as Old Dana Common, which vanished when the Quabbin was created.

From Barre Town Hall go south on Route 32 for 11.5 mi.

Right on Route 32A North for 12.6 mi.

Right on Route 122 East for .6 mi.

Right on Route 32 South for 8.5 mi. back to Barre Common.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Barre Common on Rt. 32.

Gilbertville Common on Rts. 32 and 32A.

Worcester County's only covered bridge, .1 mi. south from Gilbertville on Rt. 32.

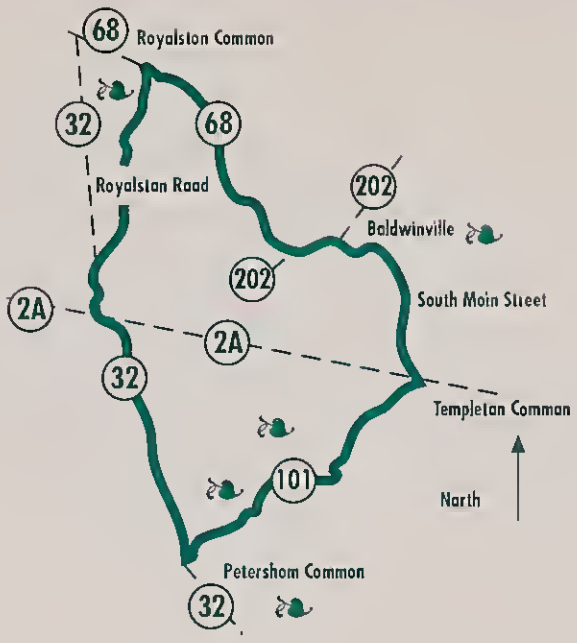
Hardwick Common on Rt. 32A.
Swift River, crosses Rt. 32A.

Old Dana Common, Gate 40 into the Quabbin, left off of 32A (9.5 mi. from Gilbertville).

Petersham Common, .5 mi. north of Rt. 32 at the intersection of Rt. 122.

New England Commons, 30 miles, difficult:

New England is renowned for the beauty of its traditional town commons. This route takes you through four country town commons and past picturesque waterfalls and lakes.



Start at Petersham Town Hall on the common. Pedal north on **Route 32** for 7 mi.

Left on **Routes 32** and **2A West**, 1.5 mi.

Right on **Route 32 North** for .1 mi.

Right on **Royalston Road**, after crossing Miller's River, for 8.7 mi.

Right on **Route 68 South** for 8.7 mi.

Left on **Route 202 North** for 1.3 mi.

Right on **South Main Street** for 3.6 mi.

Right on **Route 101** south for 8 mi.

Left on **Route 32 South** for the 1.1 mi. ride back to Petersham common.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Petersham Common Rt. 32.
Miller's River, crosses Rt. 32.

Doane's Falls on Royalston Road.

Royalston Common on Royalston Road and Rt. 68.

Baldwinville Common on Rts. 202 and 68.

Templeton Common on South Main Street and Rt. 101.

Queen Lake on Rt. 101.

SPECIAL NOTES

This route is all uphill to Royalston Common.

Legend

- North
- Road on tour
- Road not on tour, but included for reference.
- (2) State Highway
- Attraction, point of interest

Bike Group

Fitchburg Cycling Club
c/o Wade Collier
P.O. Box 411
Lunenburg, MA 01462
(508) 582-4323

Seven Hills Wheelmen
Box 24, Greendale Station
Worcester, MA 01606

Camache's Riders
George Camache
65 Laurel Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420
(508) 343-3140

Road Rules

Bicycles are allowed on any public way, except posted limited access and express highways. Right turns may be signaled with the right arm extended.

Bicyclists must obey all traffic signals and must use a headlight, as well as rear, pedal and side reflectors (ankle bands count as both) at night.

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